

# Calendar No. 1591

86TH CONGRESS  
2d Session

}

SENATE

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REPORT  
No. 1528

ROBERT WILLIAM NEAL ET AL.

JUNE 8, 1960.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 3125]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 3125) for the relief of Robert William Neal, Robert J. Naumann, Charles LeRoy Van Slyke, and Franklin Jordan, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize payment of the sums specified in the bill to certain employees of the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Commerce whose personal property was destroyed or damaged in a fire aboard the motor vessel, *Ranger VIII*, at Auke Bay, Alaska, while on official business.

### STATEMENT

The fire in question occurred on August 11, 1959, aboard the motor vessel, *Ranger VIII*, at Auke Bay, Alaska. Claims for the losses sustained were filed under the Federal Tort Claims Act (60 Stat. 342), but after full examination of the facts, the claims were disallowed for the reason that there was no act of negligence on the part of a Government employee and, hence, the claims did not fall within the scope of the act.

The amounts specified in the bill to be paid to each of these employees for loss of or damage to personal property (totaling \$102.55) have been substantiated by the records of the Bureau of Public Roads.

The Department of Commerce recommends the enactment of S. 3125. The committee concurs in the belief that the bill is meritorious and recommends that it be considered favorably.

Attached hereto and made a part hereof is the report submitted by the Department of Commerce on S. 3125.

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,  
*Washington, D.C., May 12, 1960.*

HON. JAMES O. EASTLAND,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request for the views of this Department concerning S. 3125, a bill for the relief of Robert William Neal, Robert J. Naumann, Charles LeRoy Van Slyke, and Franklin Jordan.

The Department of Commerce recommends enactment of the pending bill.

S. 3125 would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the sums specified in the bill to certain employees of the Bureau of Public Roads of this Department whose personal property was destroyed or damaged as the result of a fire on August 11, 1959, aboard the motor vessel, *Ranger VIII*, at Auke Bay, Alaska, while on official business with the Bureau of Public Roads.

The claims of these employees were filed under the Federal Tort Claims Act (60 Stat. 342), as amended, and after full examination in accordance with the provisions thereof have been disallowed, inasmuch as there was found to be no act of negligence on the part of a Government employee that would bring these claims within the scope of the act.

The amounts which would be paid under the bill to each of the four employees who suffered loss of or damage to personal property in the fire aboard the motor vessel are substantiated, however, by records of the Bureau of Public Roads. The personal property damaged or destroyed consisted of work clothing and equipment of the claimants stored aboard the vessel.

The Department, therefore, recommends enactment of S. 3125.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that it would interpose no objection to the submission of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP A. RAY,  
*Under Secretary of Commerce:*